



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2018
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Director's Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive a presentation on the status of the various Parks and Recreation Department (Department) initiatives and activities.

DISCUSSION:

Chef Apprentice Graduation

The 2018 Chef Apprentice graduation was held on Saturday, April 7. A total of 30 students attended the class this year, 15 from the Franklin Community Center and 15 from the Westside Community Center. The class had representation from Dos Pueblo High School, San Marcos High School, Santa Barbara High School, Providence, and Garden Street Academy, and also included 2 former students who still wanted to hone their cooking skills, one at Santa Barbara City College and one from UCSB.

The initial goal for this event was 60-80 attendees, a good representation for the 30 students. The students had other plans, and with great excitement proudly sold 120 tickets to family and friends. The Westside Center had a full house on graduation night!

At graduation for the past 8 years, the students simply prepared appetizers. But for the first time, this year the students went for a full 4 course meal for their parents, sponsors and friends. They cooked, sold tickets, set up the room, made centerpieces, produced a slide show, and served the meal. Everyone raved about the 8 appetizers, the coq au vin, maple glazed carrots, bread, and the choice of carrot or chocolate cake for desserts. All made from scratch by the students and chefs.

During the graduation ceremony, the audience were moved by the inspirational stories of success (5 students have already been hired by the program chefs to work in their businesses), and determination (one lives in Santa Maria, attends school in Santa Barbara, and stays for the program, putting him back home late at night). It was evident

that the students worked hard, supported each other, and loved the environment provided.

The final success story must be that, at the end, the students understand that their program was provided at no cost to them. It was funded the year before for them. These 2018 students are proud that they “paid it forward” and raised funds for the students of the 2019 class. What goes around comes around, in a great way.

The program is co-sponsored by the Jolly Brothers Catering Company and coordinated by Chef Donald Hardin and Anita Dominocielo-Ho. Additional volunteer chefs are Martin Renteria, manager of Cody's Restaurant, and Troy Peters from the Bacara Ritz Carlton, who work every day in the food industry, but enthusiastically look forward to working with these youths.

Chase Palm Park Carousel House

Formerly home to the historic Allan Herschell carousel, the Carousel House in Chase Palm Park will reopen for public use following an opening day breakfast scheduled for 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 25th. The Carousel House and its sunken plaza occupy the west end of the park, at Garden Street and East Cabrillo Boulevard. The newly-refurbished building will support recreation events, including recreational fitness classes, and provide a unique venue in Santa Barbara's beautiful waterfront for private and community celebrations of all kinds. The 3,600 square foot building's interior maximum occupancy is 240, and its proximity to the beach, Stearns Wharf, and nearby parking lots makes it a versatile location.

Use of the Carousel House as an outdoor venue for recreation classes fits neatly with Department goals to promote outdoor fitness and community wellness opportunities in public park settings. At the same time, it is hoped that opening the building for community events, festivals, and private event rentals will revitalize Chase Palm Park, bringing in revenue to support the many low-cost recreation programs and community services offered by the Department.

Earth Day Celebration

Every year, the Parks and Recreation Department participates in Santa Barbara Earth Day at Alameda Park. This year on April 21 and April 22, the Department will be located in the Public Square section at the City of Santa Barbara booth (No. 35). This year's theme is “Educate Inspire Act, *what's your climate story?*” The Department's story includes celebration of the City as a certified Bee City USA, community, healthy people/healthy environment, and the protection of the City's creeks and ocean. Information will be provided on Parks, Forestry, Recreation, and Creeks Division programs. Highlights will include Parks and Forestry information on bees and pollinators,

Recreation games for children, and Creek's Superhero Creekman, along with photo opportunities, stickers, and buttons. Bee there at Public Square!

Volunteer Work Days

Just Serve Service Project

On April 14, 2018, 40 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints completed their 9th Annual Just Serve Service Project at Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden. Led by Bishop Lund and Michael L. Peterson, Coordinator of the project, the work day was a huge success. All of park's decomposed granite walkways were weeded and raked and five large planter beds were weeded.

State Trails Day on the Jesusita Trail

On April 21, 2018, 35 volunteers will be working at a State Trails Day Volunteer Event on the Jesusita Trail. Work will include the cleanout, reconstruction and construction of water drainage features, trail repairs, and removal of annual grasses and brush adjacent to the trail. The Department is very appreciative of the continued collaboration by Dave Everett to monitor and report trail conditions as well as the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers and other volunteers.

PREPARED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director